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SUSPECT AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
 YEN BAI AREA, NORTH VIETNAM
 2144N 10452E

(SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARD K-7073 FOR COMPARISON)

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS A SUSPECT AIRFIELD IN AN EARLY STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION NEAR YEN BAI, NORTH VIETNAM.

2. LOCATION:

THE SUSPECT AIRFIELD IS LOCATED 2.3 NM NORTHWEST OF YEN BAI.

3. MISSION READOUTS:

REVEALS ONLY

ISOLATED AREAS OF DWELLINGS AND RICE PADDIES ALONG THE HIGHWAY PARALLEL TO THE HANOI - LAO CAI RAIL LINE, AND IN SEVERAL AREAS IN THE VALLEYS BETWEEN THE KARST HILLS NORTHEAST OF THE RED RIVER. THREE ROAD SEGMENTS, LEADING FROM THE MAIN UNNUMBERED ROAD, APPEAR TO BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

REVEALS

AN AREA OF UNIDENTIFIED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY 2.3 NM

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NORTHWEST OF YEN BAI. GROUND SCARRING INDICATES THAT EXTENSIVE EARTH MOVING ACTIVITY IS TAKING PLACE. ONE LARGE AND SEVERAL MINOR DRAINAGE CANALS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED ADJACENT TO THE AREA OF THE EARTH MOVING ACTIVITY.

AN EXTENSIVE ROAD NETWORK WITH CONNECTING LINKS TO NUMEROUS NEW STORAGE AREAS IS OBSERVED. SOME PORTIONS OF THIS ROAD NETWORK ARE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION; OTHER PORTIONS, WHICH ARE COMPLETED, HAVE BEEN CAMOUFLAGED WITH VEGETATION WHICH HAS BEEN PLACED ALONG THE ROADBED. AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE NEW STORAGE/SUPPORT BUILDINGS ARE WIDELY DISPERSED IN THE TREES AT THE BASE OF THE KARST HILLS. MANY OF THE BUILDINGS HAVE ASSOCIATED TRENCHES AND INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE POSITIONS. AT LEAST THIRTY-TWO VEHICLES OR POSSIBLE PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ARE OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE AREA. (NOT ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE SHOWN ON GRAPHIC).

REVEALS THE PREVIOUSLY UNIDENTIFIED CONSTRUCTION TO BE A SUSPECT AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THE SUSPECT AIRFIELD CONSISTS OF AN APPROXIMATELY 6600 X 600 FT AREA OF EARTH MOVING ACTIVITY ORIENTED IN A NORTHWEST/SOUTHEAST DIRECTION.

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(APPROXIMATELY 3000 FT OF THIS AREA WAS ACTIVELY UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON [REDACTED]. THE KARST HILLS IN THIS AREA ARE BEING LEVELED BY BULLDOZERS. THE MATERIAL OBTAINED FROM THIS OPERATION IS BEING USED TO FILL IN THE VALLEYS BETWEEN THE HILLS AND TO BUILD NEW ROADS IN THE AREA. (THIS PROCESS IS INDICATED BY SMALL BRACKETS ON GRAPHIC). THE EXCESS MATERIAL IS BEING DUMPED ON A SAND BAR IN THE RED RIVER. AT LEAST ONE CRANE, FOUR BULLDOZERS, NINETEEN DUMP TRUCKS, AND TWENTY UNIDENTIFIED PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ARE OBSERVED. THE NEW ROAD NETWORK AND STORAGE/SUPPORT BUILDINGS ARE NOT OBSERVED DUE TO CLOUD COVER.

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4. REMARKS:

THIS AIRFIELD IS POSSIBLY IN THE SAME STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION AS NING-MING AIRFIELD [REDACTED] IN CHINA WHEN IT WAS FIRST IDENTIFIED. (SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARD K-0436).

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